



## Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2008

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# First Kentucky Carillon to be Dedicated at Veterans Cemetery

### *July 4 Ceremony Features Bell Tower Musical Demonstration*

(HOPKINSVILLE, KY June 30, 2008) Kentucky's first Memorial Carillon will be dedicated at the state veterans cemetery in Hopkinsville on the Fourth of July. The 40-foot bell tower plays memorial and patriotic music to recognize and honor veterans and their service to our nation.

"We are honored that the AMVETS National Service Foundation chose Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West for its first memorial carillon in the state," said Les Beavers, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. "And we are grateful to the many organizations and individuals whose donations made this carillon possible."

More than 400 Kentucky donors contributed to KDVA's half of the \$70,000 cost of the carillon. The AMVETS National Service Foundation contributes the other half of the cost.

Major Kentucky donors include the AMVETS Department of Kentucky, Col. (Ret.) and Julia S. Prettyman, the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund and the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company. Eagle Construction Company poured the foundation and pad for the carillon free of charge.

But it was AMVETS Executive Director in Kentucky whose determination and connections brought the carillon to Hopkinsville.

“The executive director of the national foundation is a good friend of mine for many years,” said Joe Doebler. “I requested the carillon through the foundation, and then I talked with him. That had a lot to do with it.”

AMVETS partners with local organizations to install two carillons each year – no more than one per year per state. Thanks to Doebler, Kentucky is already scheduled to get a carillon at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff in 2009, and he has requested a carillon for Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North in Williamstown for 2010.

Since erecting the first carillon at Arlington National Cemetery in 1949, AMVETS has established carillons at more than 80 locations throughout the country, including 16 at veteran sites overseas.

KVCW is still accepting donations for the Carillon, to offset the cost of installing sidewalks and the Memorial Bricks purchased by donors.

The dedication ceremony in Hopkinsville will begin at 10 a.m. local time, and will include a musical demonstration from the Carillon.

The Reverend Gerald H. Baker will make the Keynote Address. Hopkinsville Mayor Dan Kemp will also speak. Joseph T. Kolano, president of the Board of Trustees of the AMVETS National Service Foundation, will present the Memorial Carillon. The Pennyryly Honor Guard will render military honors, and the Christian County and Hopkinsville High School Bands will play the Armed Forces Recognition.

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 78, Oak Grove, is providing free refreshments. KDVA encourages everyone to join us in honoring our veterans and welcoming the new carillon.